

**WMO OMM**

World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale
Organización Meteorológica Mundial
Всемирная метеорологическая организация
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
世界气象组织

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Our ref.: 25241/2023/SGO

28 November 2023

Dear Colleagues,

It has been a great pleasure to collaborate with you during the past eight years. The year 2023 has been a successful year for WMO. We have begun implementing the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative by investing in the basic weather observing networks in 62 recipient countries through the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF). At the same time we have continued supporting improvement of the weather, climate and hydrological services of least developed country (LDC) and small island developing State (SIDS) Members. The United Nations Secretary-General has chosen 30 target countries for the EW4All initiative. We are very grateful to the numerous donor countries, Nordic Development Fund, Adaptation Fund and Green Climate Fund for the financial support so far.

The World Meteorological Congress last May approved a new way of monitoring the sinks and sources of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide called Global Greenhouse Gas Watch (GGGW). This will use ground-based and satellite measurements and modelling tools to better understand the behaviour of these gases in the real atmosphere.

The World Climate Research Programme and the WMO Scientific Advisory Panel are endorsing kilometre-scale climate modelling to better understand the future evolution of weather extremes, rainfall and melting of polar glaciers. The EW4All initiative, GGGW and climate modelling will be promoted at COP28 in Dubai.

WMO with its competent staff and Members have carried out historic reforms during the past eight years and accomplished the following achievements:

1. Establishment of two technical commissions by merging the former eight commissions to handle Earth system observations, services and science;
2. Wider engagement of the private sector, scientific experts and hydrological services in WMO activities;
3. Modernized data policy, new standard for the density of stations and investment mechanism to enhance the number of stations in LDC and SIDS countries;
4. High visibility of WMO expertise through annual global and region-specific climate reports, status of water resources reports, greenhouse gas reports and United in Science reports for the United Nations General Assembly;
5. Reorganization of the WMO Secretariat to provide better services for Members;
6. Opening of all director posts for external and internal applicants, hiring of young experts to the Secretariat by rationalization of administrative work;

To: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO
Permanent Missions of Members of WMO to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

cc: Hydrological Advisers

7. Delegation of responsibility and authority to units at the expense of top-heaviness;
8. Opening of Singapore and Addis Ababa offices and allocation of infrastructure and services expertise to all Regional Offices;
9. Establishment of Public-Private Engagement Office and hiring of socioeconomic benefit expertise;
10. Emphasis on partnerships, such as with the United Nations Secretary-General, World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Green Climate Fund. Forming of joint physical centre on disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change with UNDRR;
11. Fewer, shorter and more action oriented meetings. Fewer and shorter documents.

All of the achievements are based on teamwork with committed, competent and innovative WMO staff members as well as cooperation with Members.

Finally I would like to thank WMO Members, Geneva missions, Secretary-General Guterres and colleagues at international sister organizations for productive collaboration and friendship.

It has been a great honour and privilege to serve WMO and the international community for the past eight years.

I will return to work as the Director General of the Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI), a government research and weather-climate-marine service agency on 1 January 2024. FMI has an active role in supporting sister organizations in all six WMO regions as well in collaboration in science. I will oversee the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) activities of Finland as well.

My contact details are petteri.taalas@fmi.fi, tel.: +358 50 341 3460.

I hope that you will continue the so far excellent cooperation with my successor, Celeste Saulo from Argentina as well as with the competent WMO staff.

I would like to wish you and your beloved ones a relaxing and enjoyable holiday season and fruitful New Year!

Yours faithfully,



Prof. Petteri Taalas
Secretary-General